

*Library*

Prudhoe Urban District Council

County of Northumberland



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1957



## HEALTH COMMITTEE

---

*Chairman* : Councillor Mrs. P. GRANGE

*Members* :

Councillors : J. W. BEWICK

County Counc. W. E. GARRETT

J. J. HESLOP

A. R. JOHNSTON

T. W. PULKINGHORN

S. RALPH

J. RIDLEY

J. L. STOKOE

---

—O—

## OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

W. G. TWEDDLE, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK AND SHORTHAND-TYPIST : Miss J. GRAY



# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

#### For the Year Ended 31st December, 1957

---

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1957.

There was little significant change in the vital statistics. The variations on the previous year showed a slight increase in the number of births and a slight decrease in the number of deaths resulting in a slightly larger natural increase in the population.

The infant mortality was again high and above the general rate for the country, but it must be pointed out that comparatively small figures are involved.

For the second year in succession, no death from pregnancy or child-birth was registered. Deaths from vascular diseases of the nervous system have decreased steadily in the last three years. Deaths from malignant neoplasm decreased to 18 in 1957, from 23 in 1956, this was due chiefly to a drop in those registered from malignant neoplasm of the stomach from seven in 1956 to four in 1957. Those due to falls decreased from three in 1956 to one in 1957.

It is very pleasing to be able to report that no death occurred from any form of tuberculosis and the incidence also declined considerably. This is in keeping with the general trend throughout the country these last few years, is extremely encouraging and urges us to continued effort in the fields of better housing and environment.

There was a rise in the total number of infectious diseases notified due mainly to the incidence of measles during the year. This biennial increase is usual and was not so high as in 1955. All other notifiable infectious fevers except several mild cases of scarlet fever showed a decline in incidence especially notifications of sonne dysentery which dropped to 27 sporadic cases during the year, compared with 43 in 1956. There is still an occasional case of illness in the district due to Salmonella Typhi-murium. It will be remembered that there was an outbreak of this illness the previous year. Influenza was prevalent in the later months of the year.

The health of the district was satisfactory on the whole and it is gratifying to see the progress that has been made in the clearance of unfit and sub-standard houses which still continues.

Steady advancement was made in converting ash privies to water carriage, 92 privies were removed during the year, some in connection with slum clearance and others under Section 47 of the Act. This reduces the number of privies to 308 at the end of the year.

My thanks are due to the staff of the Health Department especially Mr. Tweddle, the Public Health Inspector, and to Miss Gray, for their continued interest and active work throughout the year, and to the Clerk and other Officials of the Council for their co-operation. May I also express appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and help during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. HOPPER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## 1.—VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT.

Area (in acres) .. .. .	3,889
Population (Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population) .. ..	9,960
Inhabited Houses .. .. .	2,985

The main occupations in the district are Coal Mining and Chemical Works, the latter of considerable size.

### POPULATION.

According to the Registrar General's mid-year estimate, the population of the urban district was 9,960 an increase of ten on the previous year.

### BIRTHS.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	68	78	146
Illegitimate .. .. .	1	1	2
	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 79	<hr/> 148

The total number of births registered in the year was 148, 69 male and 79 female. This was an increase of 13 on the total number of births in the previous year, and in contrast, there was a slight increase in the number of female births, whereas in 1956, there was a preponderance of male births.

Two illegitimate births were registered in 1957, and one in 1956.

The birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) for the urban district was 14.7 per 1,000 population, the highest rate since 1949, though that for 1953 closely approximated.

The birth rate for England and Wales for the year was 16.1 per 1,000 population.

The number of still births during the year increased to four from two in 1956, and one, in 1955. The still birth rate was 27.3 per 1,000 live and still births, and that for the country was 22.4.

### Still Births.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	2	2	4
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4

### DEATHS.

A total of 103 deaths (63 male and 40 female) was registered during the year. Fourteen of these deaths took place at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. This was a decrease on the total number of deaths registered both in 1956 and 1955.

The death rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) for the urban district was 12.2 per 1,000 population compared with 14.1 in 1956 and 11.5 for England and Wales in 1957. The death rate for 1957 was the lowest for the urban district since 1952.

### Natural Increase of Population.

As one would expect with a slightly increased birth rate and a slightly decreased death rate, the natural increase of the population shown by the excess of births over deaths was higher than for some years, being 59 after exclusion of the deaths in the Hospital. In the previous two years, it had been 32.

### Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age, was again high, there being eight in 1957 and nine, in 1956. In the years 1955 and 1954, there were four and two, respectively, in each year.

Three of these deaths had prematurity as a contributory cause and occurred during the first twenty four hours of life. Five deaths, two neo-natal and two occurring after some months of life had congenital abnormalities as an underlying cause.

The infant mortality rate for the urban district was therefore high, being 54.0 per 1,000 live births, compared with the rate of 66.6 in 1956. The rate for the country in 1957 was 23.0 per 1,000 births.

The neo-natal deaths, i.e., deaths occurring during the first month of life were six, compared with nine in the previous year, giving a rate of 43.2 per 1,000 live births for the district. The rate for England and Wales was 16.5.

It is the high number of deaths due primarily to prematurity and congenital malformations, usually of a serious type, which keep up the infant mortality rate. Continued and meticulous ante-natal care, combined with deeper research into the causes of congenital defects, appears to be the only way to conquer this, now that infection as a cause of infant death has been virtually eliminated.

### Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age.

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	4	2	6
Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—
			4	2	6

### Maternal Mortality.

It is pleasant to report that no death from pregnancy and child-birth occurred during the year. In 1956, there was one death from these causes, as in 1954.

The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.47 per 1,000 total live and still births.



**Individual Causes of Death.**

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	—	—
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	—	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	—	—
Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	2 (1)	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	7	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	—	—
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	9	5
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	11 (2)	4 (1)
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	1	—
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	4 (3)	3
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	4	1 (1)
Influenza	..	..	..	..	2	2 (1)
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	4 (1)	4 (1)
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3	1
Other disease of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	8	6 (3)
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	—	1
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	4	—
Suicide	..	..	..	..	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—
					63 (7)	40 (7)

(Figures in brackets denote deaths in the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital).

The largest group was 38 deaths classified as due to "Heart and Circulatory Diseases." This was similar to 37, classified in this group in the previous year, seven of these deaths occurred at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.

Deaths from "Vascular lesions of nervous system" numbered 14, a decrease on the number of 19, in 1956 and 26, in 1955. This gradual decline in the last three years is worthy of note.

Deaths from "Malignant neoplasm" of all types which had increased to a total of 23, in 1956, dropped to 18, in 1957. The decrease was mainly in those due to "Malignant neoplasm of the stomach" which dropped from eight, in 1956 to four, in 1957.



Two deaths from Cancer of the lung and bronchus were registered, there had been one in the previous year.

There was no significant difference in the number registered "of other sites".

The number of deaths from Respiratory causes was similar in both years.

Four deaths from "Influenza" were registered, whereas in 1956, there had been none, thus showing the effect of the outbreak of Influenza in the district, which was at its peak at the end of September and all during October.

Deaths from "Motor vehicle accidents" fortunately dropped to one during the year from three, in 1956.

As in the previous year, there were four deaths registered from Accidents other than motor ones. All the deaths were of males, two were due to drowning in the River Tyne, and one, of an elderly man, due to a fall at home, the other death was due to an accident at work.

It is encouraging to note that there was a decrease in the number of deaths of old people due to falls, from three in 1956 to one, in 1957 and it is hoped that this will continue.

No death from "Suicide" was registered as in the previous two years.

**TABLE OF DEATH AND BIRTH RATES  
COMPARED WITH ENGLAND AND WALES.**

Year	General Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales
1945	8.9	11.4	67.6	46.0	15.3	16.10
1946	10.16	11.5	60.8	43.0	15.8	19.1
1947	10.1	12.0	60.24	41.0	17.95	20.5
1948	9.2	10.8	51.7	34.0	18.73	17.9
1949	9.5	11.7	52.9	32.0	16.16	16.7
1950	10.2	11.6	51.8	29.8	14.23	15.8
1951	9.2	12.5	47.6	29.6	13.3	15.5
1952	9.6	11.3	30.3	27.6	14.05	15.3
1953	12.5	11.4	6.7	26.8	14.67	15.5
1954	13.08	11.3	16.9	25.5	11.25	15.2
1955	13.4	11.7	30.5	24.9	13.5	15.0
1956	14.2	11.7	66.6	23.8	12.5	15.7
1957	12.2	11.5	54.0	23.0	14.7	16.1

## II.—TUBERCULOSIS.

No death from tuberculosis (all forms) occurred during 1957 in the urban district either among the residents or at the Hospital.

The death rate for England and Wales was 0.107 per 1,000 population. This was the first year on record that no death from this cause was registered. The decline in mortality compared with the general trend throughout the country and is very encouraging.

During the year, a total of four cases of tuberculosis (all forms) was notified, compared with seven in the previous year. There were two notified of the pulmonary form of the disease, (one male and one female) and two of non-pulmonary, (one male and one female) tuberculosis. In addition, there was one inward transfer of pulmonary tuberculosis to the district and one of non-pulmonary tuberculosis to the Hospital.

The very welcome decline in mortality and incidence and the improvement in prognosis of this disease is extremely encouraging and incites us all to continue to add our quota of help in better housing and other facilities, especially towards those at risk.

Patients from the district attend the Chest Clinic at Hexham under the Senior Chest Physician and are admitted to various sanatoria in the region as required. Family contacts are kept under surveillance at the Chest Clinic and B.C.G., vaccination given to children as required, with the parents' consent. Particular attention is paid to the housing conditions of patients suffering from tuberculosis.

In the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital, where since 1955, there has been a special department for the treatment of mental defective patients suffering from tuberculosis, there were 19 patients at December, 1957. These patients had been transferred from other institutions and from other parts of the region, Northumberland, Durham, Sunderland, Newcastle, North Yorkshire, etc.

### TUBERCULOSIS REGISTERS.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st December, 1957	31	27	10	6	74

#### Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital

31st December, 1957	10	5	4	—	19
---------------------	----	---	---	---	----

#### Classification of New Cases Notified in 1957

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1—5 years ..	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ..	—	—	—	1
15—25 years ..	—	—	—	—
25—35 years ..	—	1	—	—
35—45 years ..	1	—	—	—
45 and over	—	—	1	—
	1	1	1	1

### MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The No. 2 Unit of the Regional Hospital Board held public sessions at Prudhoe on the 3rd, 4th and 5th April, 1957. A total of 948 persons (448 male and 500 female) attended including 301 school children. 22 were recalled for large films and eventually three males and one female were referred to the Chest Clinic. These figures were kindly supplied by the Secretary of the Unit.

On previous visits of the Unit for public sessions in the district, the average total attendance had been 711 persons.

In addition, the Unit paid visits to the Hospital.

### III.—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

During 1957, 218 cases of infectious diseases were notified compared to 186, in 1956.

The increase was entirely due to the rise in incidence of Measles that year and a slight rise in that of Scarlet Fever. All the other notifiable infectious fevers showed a drop in incidence.

#### Measles.

No case of Measles had been notified in the urban district for the previous nine months but from January to July, 1957, 139 cases were notified. The peak months were February and March when 35 and 29 cases respectively were notified, followed by a second wave in June when 31 cases were notified. A few cases occurred at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.

This increase in incidence has occurred regularly every two years, the last being in 1955 when 239 cases were notified. Generally, the disease was of a mild type with only occasional complications.

#### Scarlet Fever.

This disease also showed a decided increase in incidence to 24 cases notified during the year, from seven, in 1956, and one, in 1955. For a number of years now, Scarlet Fever has been of a very mild type. The three months of March, April and May were the season of prevalence, 16 cases being notified during that time. A contact of a case was removed from food handling for a short time and given other work by his employer.

#### Whooping Cough.

A welcome decrease in incidence was apparent in the notifications of this disease to 17 cases notified in 1957 from 66, in 1956. The cases occurred sporadically in the early and last months of the year. The value of the immunisation campaign against Whooping Cough appears to be now showing results.

#### Dysentery.

Altogether during the year, 27 cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified. They occurred mainly during the months of April, May and June. Five of the cases were notified from the Hospital and fortunately were isolated ones and no further spread took place. The remainder were sporadic cases in several families in the district. In June, when seven cases were notified, five families were affected, three of whom lived in Mickley. Routine investigation, treatment by the patients' doctor and follow up of contacts took place. Several symptomless excretors and convalescent carriers were found.



### **Food Poisoning.**

Four cases were notified in 1957, compared to 27 in the previous year when there was an outbreak due to Salmonella Typhi-murium. One case occurred during the first quarter, two in the second quarter and the fourth during the third quarter of the year.

In one case the agent was unidentified. In the two cases in July, the organism isolated was Salmonella Heidelberg, one patient being a resident of the district and the other, a long-term resident at the Hospital. In both these cases the initial symptoms were fairly severe. No link could be found between them.

In the fourth case the organism isolated was Salmonella Typhi-murium. Routine investigation and supervision were undertaken in all cases. No complete link with infected food could be established as some days had generally elapsed before diagnosis. In two cases the food suspected was bought outside the district and the Medical Officer of Health of that district was informed.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

It is pleasing to report that no case of Poliomyelitis was notified in 1957. In the previous year, there had been two cases notified.

### **Influenza.**

As in former years, in conjunction with the general practitioners, a watch was kept during the winter months for any unusual prevalence of Influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications and during September and October the disease was generally prevalent in the district gradually decreasing towards the end of the year. During the first week of September, there was an increase of double the claims over the normal claims of sickness benefit in the district from facts submitted by the Ministry of National Insurance.

The amount of sickness in the district continued at a high level during September and October and then gradually dropped.

On the whole, symptoms though severe in some cases at first, did not last long and complications were few.

Three cases of Virus or Influenzal Pneumonia occurred but all in the first three months of the year.

One case of Meningococcal Meningitis was notified in January.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.  
 NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jne.	Jly.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	1	—	7	5	4	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	24
Pneumonia ..	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Measles ..	5	35	29	5	18	31	16	—	—	—	—	—	139
Dysentery ..	—	—	1	4	2	7	2	—	—	—	—	11	27
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ..	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	17
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
	17	36	43	14	25	42	22	—	—	—	6	13	218

**FOOD POISONING.**

Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected)  
Returned to Registrar General.

1ST QUARTER.	2ND QUARTER.	3RD QUARTER.	4TH QUARTER	TOTAL.
1	2	1	Nil	4

**OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :**

Total outbreaks .. Nil. Total Cases .. Nil.

**Outbreaks due to :**

(a) Chemical Poisons	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(b) Salmonella Organisms	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(d) Cl. botulinum	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(e) Other bacteria	..	..	..	..	Nil.

**OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :**

Total outbreaks .. Nil Total cases .. Nil

**SINGLE CASES :**

Agent identified .. 3 Unknown cause .. 1 Total .. 4  
(Salmonella Typhi-murium—1)  
(Salmonella Heidelberg—2)

**LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

The examination of faeces, sputum, swabs, milk, water and ice cream was carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**Bacteriological Reports.**

				<i>Results</i>		<i>Total.</i>
				<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	
Faeces	..	..	..	74	61	135
Sputum	..	..	..	—	—	—
Throat swabs	..	..	..	—	—	—
Vaginal swabs	..	..	..	—	—	—
				74	61	135

**IV.—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948****Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons living in insanitary conditions and in need of care and attention.**

Several visits to elderly persons were paid during the year, and the services of a home help supplied when necessary.

No formal action proved necessary.

**Section 50—Burial of the Dead.**

No formal action was required.

## V.—HOUSING

Stage II of the West Wylam Housing Scheme was completed during the year with the building of 69 houses. So far in Stages I and II of the scheme, 315 houses have been built.

All the families from Clive Street and Tyne Street were removed and demolition of these 80 back-to-back houses was well advanced.

The Council again gave high priority to all cases of tuberculosis.

During the year, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed Orders for the demolition of 24 to 35, Ada Street (12 houses), 1 to 30, Clara Street (30 houses), 5 to 20, Dene Street (16 houses), 1 to 28, Percy Street (28 houses) and 1 to 14, Cross Street (14 houses), a total of 100 houses. With the exception of Cross Street where occupants were rehoused in Stage II of the West Wylam Scheme, the residents of the other streets remained to be rehoused. The Council's house building programme was stopped in the later part of the year.

## VI.—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The West Wylam Colliery spoilbank was again responsible for nuisance from time to time, although the National Coal Board carried out a considerable amount of work to limit, and if possible, eradicate the burning areas.

The district is reasonably free from industry likely to pollute the atmosphere, but a large proportion of dwelling houses are occupied by miners and there is a considerable amount of domestic smoke.

## VII.—WATER SUPPLY

The urban district is supplied throughout from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Samples of water taken from domestic taps have all been very satisfactory.

## VIII.—FOOD HYGIENE AND HEALTH EDUCATION

No formal action was necessary under the Food and Drugs Acts.

Employees in food premises have been given instruction on food hygiene and information leaflets handed out from time to time.

Regular visits have been made to premises where food is prepared and to retail shops where food is sold to the public.

Talks on health topics such as food hygiene, accidents in the home, general sanitation were given to groups of people by the staff of the health department.

## IX.—WELFARE OF THE AGED

Following an inaugural meeting in 1956 convened by the Council to discuss the suggested formation of a local Old People's Welfare Committee, four meetings were held during 1957. Discussions took place on various aspects of helping the aged of the district such as home visiting, a chiropody service, etc.

A census taken between June and July, showed that the total number of people, 60 years of age and upwards, was 1,141, 14% being in the 75/79 years of age group and 9% in the 80 plus.

An initial grant was given to the Committee by the Council. It is expected that further progress will be made during the following year.

The above facts have been supplied by Mr. T. Philipson, Honorary Secretary of the above Committee.

## X.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

The details of this section have been compiled by Mr. W. G. Tweddle, Public Health Inspector.

### PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

#### (a) REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

##### Hospitals.

There is the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital for mental defectives under the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital Management Committee.

Cases of infectious diseases are admitted when necessary to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate, Newcastle.

#### (b) Tuberculosis.

Cases from the urban district attend the Chest Clinic at Hexham under the Consultant Chest Physician. Institutional treatment is provided in sanatoria or at the Walker Gate Hospital.

The Mass Radiography Unit visits the district and the Hospital at intervals.

#### (c) LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES, ETC.

(Services 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and the care of the building under Service 2 are administered by the South Area Health Sub. Committee of the Northumberland County Council).

##### 1. Midwifery and Home Nursing Service.

There are three nurse/midwives in the Prudhoe Urban District Council's area, two working in Prudhoe and one in the Stocksfield and Mickley districts.

##### 2. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Child Welfare Centre, Council Yard, Prudhoe.

Sessions for babies, children, expectant mothers and dental treatment are held at the above centre.

*Children's Sessions :* Every Wednesday, 9-30 a.m., to 12 noon.  
1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

*Ante-natal Sessions :* Every Tuesday, 2-0 p.m., to 4 p.m.  
Every Friday, 2-0 p.m., to 4 p.m.



### 3. Immunisation and Vaccination.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, by the general practitioners and at intervals, at the schools.

At the end of 1957, 92% (93%) of the total child population within the district had been immunised at some time during their lives. Taken in age groups, this was 78% (81%) of children 0—4 years, 98% (98%) of children 5—14 years.

The figures in brackets indicate the percentages for the previous year.

The **Immunity Index** introduced in 1953 showed 24% (35%) children under 1 year, 94% (93%) children 1—4 years, 61% (67%) of children 5—14 years had been immunised at some time during the last five years.

The total Immunity Index for 1957 was 67% (72%). There was a drop in the number of immunisations done in 1957, both in the children under one year and children of school age. From April onwards throughout the year attention was concentrated on Poliomyelitis vaccination and this will probably rectify itself when the rush for Poliomyelitis vaccination is over.

#### **Whooping Cough Prophylaxis.**

A total of 121 children received protection against Whooping Cough, compared with 126, in 1956 and 91, in 1955. The majority received combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria prophylactic.

The rapidly declining incidence of Whooping Cough points towards the value of this protection and it is hoped that parents will continue to have their children done. They are, as a general rule, eager to have their young children done and advice by the doctors and at the clinics as to the proper spacing of the various protective injections is often sought.

#### **Tetanus.**

The triple antigen of Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus was used for ten children compared with three the previous year.

#### **Vaccination against Smallpox.**

A total of 109 (27) primary vaccinations were done during the year. This is most encouraging and is the highest on record in the district since 1948. Hitherto, the numbers have been meagre, and in 1954, the total was only five.

This increase is mainly due to the efforts of the staff at the clinic and the family doctors and is very welcome, for the number of vaccinated people in the district was extremely low and left the great majority of the population at risk should a case occur.

#### **Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.**

From the early summer onwards to the end of the year, as supplies of vaccine became available, registered children of up to 15 years of age received two injections either at sessions at the clinics or by the family doctors.

By the 31st December, 501 children had completed the two injections and more were in progress of being done.

The administration of the scheme was done on an area basis.

#### 4. Ambulance Service.

The urban district is directly served by an ambulance and driver stationed at 4, High Row South, Mickley Square, Stocksfield (Telephone No. 3110 Stocksfield). This ambulance is radio controlled and in communication with the Throckley Station at Westway, Throckley (Telephone No. 67-4535 Lemington) which is equipped with a monitor radio set.

Messages from 4-0 p.m., to 8-0 a.m., on weekdays and from noon on Saturdays to 8-0 a.m., on Mondays go direct to the central depot at Wideopen and are relayed to either the Throckley Station or Prudhoe ambulance. In addition the ambulance of the British Red Cross at Corbridge acts as an additional cover when necessary.

During 1957, the ambulance at Prudhoe made a total of 662 (612) journeys, carried 3,935 (3,675) patients, including 156 (131) accident and emergency cases and 253 (271) stretcher cases and did a total of 27,208 (25,413) miles.

Additional to these journeys are those made by the ambulances of the Throckley Station.

#### 5. Home Help Service.

A total of 68 (80) patients resident in the district received the services of a home help for varying periods in 1957. The cases included 65 (79) aged and infirm people, two blind persons and one of acute illness.

The service is of great use especially to the aged and infirm keeping them in comfortable conditions in their own houses, very often to the end of their days.

#### 6. Nursing Care Committees.

There are two Nursing Care Committees in the district, one at Prudhoe and the other at Mickley.

These committees are voluntary organisations who visit sick people on occasions and supply articles of nursing equipment to them, if required. The Honorary Secretaries of these committees are :—

Mr. B. NICHOLS, 27, High Row North, Mickley, Stocksfield.

Mrs. A. L. KNOX, 1, Grange Terrace, Prudhoe.

#### 7. Care and After-Care.

As in previous years, the Newburn and Prudhoe After-Care Sub. Committee held regular meetings every two months.

Aid to patients suffering from tuberculosis with milk, travelling expenses of relatives to hospital and in other ways was given as needed.

# REPORT

## OF THE

# PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957

*To Dr. Madge Hopper,*

I herewith submit my report.

#### INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
Stables and Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Factories and Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	316
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
Atmospheric Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Schools, Shops and Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	295
Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	279
Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	177
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Filthy or Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	231
Inquiries in cases of I.D.	..	..	..	..	..	..	144
Disinfection, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	122
Visits to Slaughterhouses, Butchers, Canteens, Dairies, Fish-mongers, Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	242
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Ice Cream Premises and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Street Hawkers' Carts, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Miscellaneous Food Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
							2,682
Number of Nuisances Found	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Number of Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Number of Verbal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	153
Number of Verbal Notices Complied With	..	..	..	..	..	..	153
Number of Informal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Number of Informal Notices Complied With	..	..	..	..	..	..	99



### General Administration under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

The number of complaints made to the Public Health Department was 412.

All were investigated and suitable action taken.

### Public Health Act, 1936.

Ninety two privies were removed during the year, some in connection with slum clearance and others under Section 47 of the Act. At the end of 1957, there were 308 privies in use.

### Drainage Work.

Considerable amount of drainage work has been inspected as the following details show :—

Number of lineal yards of drains laid .. ..	902
Number of inspection chambers provided .. ..	43

Extensive work has been carried out at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital where drainage systems are being installed in connection with the various buildings under construction. Supervision has been maintained over this work.

### Public Conveniences.

BRANCH END, STOCKSFIELD : For males and females.

ROAD ENDS, PRUDHOE : For males and females.

These premises have been given regular supervision.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal. (House and Trade Refuse).

The whole of the urban area is scavenged weekly and the service has been very well carried out. In a mining district such as this, the amount of heavy household refuse is considerable and with the many steep inclines which are found on the new housing estates together with the large number of steps to negotiate, the work is extremely hard during the winter months.

As far as can be estimated, at least 6,000 tons of refuse is removed yearly and deposited at the Refuse Tip, West Wylam.

The number of houses scavenged increased by 92.

In the last ten years, the number of dwelling houses has increased by 33%.

Four refuse vehicles are in daily use with drivers and eight men and one wagon is kept in reserve, as it is imperative that there should be no delay in the removal of privy refuse.

REGISTRATION NO.	YEAR PURCHASED	CAPACITY.
JVK 361 .. ..	August, 1945 .. ..	7 cu. yds.
KBB 118 .. ..	March, 1946 .. ..	7 cu. yds.
BJR 306 .. ..	Dec., 1946 .. ..	7 cu. yds.
ETY 298 .. ..	May, 1951 .. ..	7 cu. yds.
JNL 986 .. ..	August, 1955 .. ..	10 cu. yds.



**Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.**

The register at the end of 1957 was as follows :—

Garages .. .. .	10
Joiners' and Builders' Premises .. .. .	7
Bakeries .. .. .	1
Boot Repairers .. .. .	4
Sanitary Pipes and Brickworks .. .. .	3
Blacksmiths' and Light Engineering .. .. .	2
Battery Charging .. .. .	4
Chemical Works .. .. .	1
Sand and Gravel Extraction .. .. .	1
Miscellaneous .. .. .	18
	—
	51
	—

**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**  
**Inspections for Purposes of Provision as to Health**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	24	32	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	24	33	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises) ..	3	10	—	—
TOTAL ..	51	75	—	—

### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	5	5	—	—	—

### OUTWORK

NATURE OF WORK	NO OF OUT-WORKERS IN AUGUST
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	—

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There are two slaughterhouses in the district but they have not been used during 1957.

Meat supplies are brought into the district from Hexham and Newcastle.

### Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Eight persons held licences to slaughter and stun animals.

## FOOD INSPECTION

UNSOUND FOOD					Surrendered
Liver (Ox)	..	..	..	..	17 lbs.
Beef	..	..	..	..	72 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	124 lbs.
Canned Goods, etc.	..	..	..	..	340 contrs.
Sausages	..	..	..	..	14 lbs.
Cooked Ham (Tinned)	..	..	..	..	201 lbs.
Jellied Veal, Ox-Tongue and Corned Beef, etc.	..	..	..	..	50 lbs.
Fruit	..	..	..	..	58 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	24 lbs.

**Disposal of Unsound Food.**

As in the past, this has been done by incineration and by covering in the refuse tip.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 24—Sale of Horse Flesh.**

There are no premises dealing in this commodity.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 13—Regulations as to Food Hygiene.**

Regular inspection of food premises has been maintained and particular attention directed to hygienic food handling.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16—Registration of Premises.  
(Manufacture and Sale of Ice-cream and of Sausages, etc.)**

There are 42 premises registered under this section.

**Ice Cream.**

Thirty premises are registered for the sale of this commodity. There is only one manufacturer of ice-cream in the district.

Six samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and in each case the result was Grade I.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 63—Licensing of Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards.**

Two slaughterhouses licensed are both in premises in Back Front Street, Prudhoe.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 13.****Public Health Act, 1936. Section 89.**

Public Houses .. 9.                      Licensed Clubs .. 4.

These premises have been visited and were found to be generally satisfactory with the exception of one public house where the sanitation is of the ash privy type and is not up to modern standards.

### **Travelling Vans and Shops.**

Routine inspections of the above vehicles have been carried out throughout the year, and it has been found that washing accommodation is practically universal.

### **Inspection and Control of Milk Supplies.**

A small quantity of raw milk is retailed in the urban district as this area is not included in the Order where only Heat Treated or Tuberculin Tested Milk can be sold.

Fourteen samples of milk were collected for statutory or biological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. In each case, the result was satisfactory.

### **Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations.**

Number of licences . . . 12.

### **Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations.**

Number of licences to retail Pasteurised . . . 14.

Number of licences to retail Sterilised . . . 13.

### **Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269—Tents, Vans and Sheds.**

Number of licences . . . 2.

### **Stables, Manure Pits and Piggeries.**

One large stable is still in use and regular inspections have been made of other premises under this heading.

### **Disinfection of Premises.**

Several houses have been disinfected after cases of infectious disease and disinfectants have been supplied free of charge where necessary.

### **Disinfestation of Premises.**

Houses affected with infestations of various insects have been dealt with and occupiers given advice and assistance.

### **Places of Public Entertainment. Circular 120, Ministry of Health.**

There are two cinemas in Prudhoe. Both are provided with adequate sanitation and are satisfactory.

### **Offensive Trades. Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.**

**Restriction on establishment of offensive trade in urban district.**

There are no offensive trades in this area.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

There are no pet shops in this district.



The following table gives a list of various repair work which has been done after direction from the Public Health Department :—

Dampness abated	..	..	..	..	14
Walls and ceiling plaster renewed or repaired					7
Roofs repaired or renewed	..	..	..		16
External walls repointed	..	..	..		12
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	..	..	..		6
Floors renewed or repaired	..	..	..		4
Doors renewed or repaired	..	..	..		4
Window frames renewed or repaired	..	..	..		6
W.C.'s renewed, repaired or provided	..	..	..		22
Water pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	12
Yard surfaces renewed	..	..	..	..	8
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	..	..	..	..	11
Drains cleared	..	..	..	..	67
Dustbins renewed and additional	..	..	..	..	132
Additional W.C.s provided	..	..	..	..	6
Food stores provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	10
Scullery sinks provided	..	..	..	..	6
Old gullies replaced	..	..	..	..	8
Additional gullies provided	..	..	..	..	10
Drains repaired or reconstructed	..	..	..	..	15
New drains constructed	..	..	..	..	10
Hot water supplies to dwelling houses	..	..	..	..	6
Baths provided	..	..	..	..	5
Coal houses repaired	..	..	..	..	5
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Privies and Privy ashpits abolished	..	..	..	..	38
Privies repaired	..	..	..	..	16

### RODENT CONTROL, PESTS ACT, 1949.

I have again to report a very successful year in the eradication of rats and mice. All sewers have been examined and treatment given where necessary.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	(1) Local Author- ity	Non-Agricultural		(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	(5) Agri- cultural
		(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Coun- cil Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)		
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District .. .. .	12	2,980	87	3,079	27
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification .. .. .	—	24	9	33	—
(b) Survey under the Act	12	79	29	120	19
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	65	29	94	8
3. Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections .. .. .	25	179	73	277	38
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. 2) which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats Major .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Minor .. .. .	6	20	—	26	1
(b) Mice Major .. .. .	2	—	—	2	—
Minor .. .. .	2	18	4	24	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 4) treated by the L.A. .. .. .	10	38	2	50	1
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments .. .. .	14	46	3	63	1

**HOUSING.**

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority .. ..	152	—	152
(b) By any other Housing Authority .. ..	20	—	20
(c) By private persons .. ..	—	1	1

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District .. 2,985

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority .. 1,242

**ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES****CLOSING AND DEMOLITION**

	<i>No of houses.</i>
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas .. ..	79
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas .. ..	—
3. Houses closed, not demolished .. ..	—
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above .. ..	5

**REPAIRS****Houses made fit.**

5. By informal action .. ..	44
6. By owners, following statutory notice .. ..	—
7. By local authority in default of owners .. ..	—
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction .. ..	—

**Houses patched.**

9. Houses in clearance areas retained for temporary accom- modation .. ..	—
--	---

**IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949.**

10. Applications submitted to local authority during year..	17
11. Applications rejected .. ..	—
12. Applications approved .. ..	17
13. Approximate average grant approved per house ..	£160
14. Total number of houses approved for grant in your area since inception of scheme .. ..	83

**BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT**

- 9th October, 1950. Model Byelaws, Series (1), Ministry of Food.  
Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.  
For securing cleanly conditions and practices in  
connection with the handling, wrapping and  
delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.
- 31st December, 1953 Model Byelaws (Buildings)



**Conclusion.**

The year 1957 saw a further advance made in removing old colliery properties at West Wylam. During the year, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed Clearance Orders in respect of Cross Street, Percy Street, Clara Street and parts of Ada Street and Dene Street, a total of 100 houses. When the demolition of these properties is completed, the old West Wylam Village will then have disappeared and the only properties to be removed will be The Terrace of 40 houses.

The Council certainly made good progress in providing modern houses on their West Wylam Estate in 1957, but in September the Public Works Loan Board increased the rate for the borrowing of money and the Council then stopped further development.

I wish to again record my thanks to Miss J. Gray, Shorthand-Typist and Clerk for her assistance and ready willingness in the work of the Public Health Department.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. TWEDDLE,

*Public Health Inspector.*









